(a) whether the process of rationalisation in Central Purchase Organisation viz. DGS&D has come to a halt since departure of Shri P. Chidambaram, former Commerce Minister;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to complete rationalisation of DGS&D to save expenditure;

(c) whether Government have identified the areas of duplicity in the context of functioning of DGS&D vis-a-vis other Ministries and their activities in purchasing and inspection field; and

(d) what is Government's position of continuing inspecting wing in DGS&D when most of the users have their own inspection agency functioning as an overall organisation to carry out check on quality aspects of stores as well as final production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In terms of the Government decision taken towards the end of 1991, the work of procurement against adhoc indents has been transferred from DGS&D to various Central Government Ministries/Departments alongwith the officers and staff dealing with the work. DGS&D will however, continue to handle procurement of common user items which are in regular demand in various Ministries/ Departments on rate/running contact basis with the exception of POL Products required by the Ministries of Defence and Railways. DGS&D will also continue to deal with adhoc purchases for the State Governments, Union Territories and Public Sector Undertakings, of so desired by them.

(c) and (d) The roles of DGS&D as the Central Purchase Organisation of the Government and that of the purchase organisations working under the different Ministries are not comparable. DGS&D is responsible for meeting the needs of all the Ministries of Government of India. The functioning of the purchase agencies of other Ministries and user on the other hand, has been designed and is restricted to suit the specific roles and duties assigned to them.

The roles of Inspection Wing of DGS&D and that of Inspection agencies under other Ministries of the Government are similarly not comparable- The inspection agencies under different Ministries have been set up with well defined roles and objectives. The expertise and functioning of various Inspection Agencies does not always overlap with each other.

Inspection of Stores by DGCA against orders placed by D.G.S.&D.

4226. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the volume and value of inspection of stores by DGCA through its difference Wing, RITES, DOT and others during the past three years against orders placed by DGS&D;

(b) what is the value of stores rejected and settled at price reduction and that finally rejected at users end and in respect of such agencies; and

(c) the number of cases in which inspection of stores and release of Inspection Notes could not be completed within 14 days time since call with its value and percentage against each item inspected by such agencies during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Inspection of stores against DGS&D contracts is normally undertaken by the Inspection Wing of the DGS&D. However, in some cases the Inspection is carried out by other inspecting agencies also e.g. DGQA, RITES etc. No data/record is being maintained with regard to quantum, value etc. of stores inspected by each of the agencies other than Inspection Wing of the DGS&D against orders placed by the DGS&D. The value of orders inspected by the Inspection Wing of the DGS&D against orders placed by the DGS&D during the last three years is given below:—

Years	Value of stores Inspected (Rs. in Crores)
1990-91	1,434.58
1991-92	1,144.20
1992-93 (upto Dec. 1992)	723.92

(b) Data regarding value of stores rejected and settled at price reduction and that finally rejected at users' end is not being maintained. However, the value of stores rejected finally at users' end in respect of stores inspected by Inspection Wing of DGS&D is given below:—

1989-90	Rs. 11.00 lakhs
1990-91	Rs. 23.00 lakhs
1991-92	Rs. 17.00 lakhs

(c) In so far as DGS&D Inspection is concerned the time schedule prescribed/laid down with regard to inspection of stores and release of inspection notes has been generally met.

Commitments by Russia for Supply of Goods and Equipments

4227. SHRI AJIT P. K JOGI:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

es030(a) whether it is a fact that Russian is backing out from their commitments and many articles, equipments and goods promised by former Soviet Union have found way to hard currency areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with successor states of Soviet Union;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBU TION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Following dissolution of the former Soviet Union, the Government of Russia and evinced interest in modifying a number of agreements between India and the former Soviet Union. As a consequence, a new agreement on trade and economic co-operation was signed between India and Russia on May 4, 1992. This agreement provides for all payments in settlement to be effected in freely convertible currencies unless otherwise specified by any intergovernmental agreement. Subsequently an agreement was reached delineating repayments through exports of commodities by India of the debts that it owed to the former Soviet Union. The trade and economic cooperation agreement also provides for trade to be carried on the basis of counter trade or any other internationally recognised form of business cooperation.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Estimate for Quantity of Fluecured Tobacco available in A.P.

4228. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has made any estimate of the total quantity of fluecured tobacco available in Andhra Pradesh at the beginning of the seasons during this year; and

(b) the total quantity of this fluecured tobacco purchased in Andhra Pradesh at various auction platforms run by Tobacco Board during this calender year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 125.60 M. Kgs of 1992-93 AP. crop was marketed at various auction platforms in AP

Abolition of Minimum Export Prices for Agricultural Commodities

4229. SHRI V.HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced the abolition of Minimum Export Prices for certain agricultural commodities;

(b) the names of all these commodities whose M.E.P. was removed during this financial year;

(c) what are the reasons for this policy;

(d) what crops from Andhra Pradesh have thus been affected; and

(e) whether the farmers in Andhra Pradesh would pay a steep price for removal of the M.E.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBU-